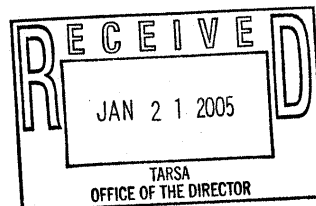




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JAN 18 2005




Richard A. Eskin, Ph.D, Director
Technical & Regulatory Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 540
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

Dear Dr. Eskin:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted a complete review of Maryland's 2004 Section 303(d) List and supporting documentation and information and, based on this review, EPA has determined that Maryland's list of water quality limited segments still requiring total maximum daily loads meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations. Therefore, by this order, EPA hereby approves Maryland's 2004 Section 303(d) List. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and EPA's review of Maryland's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosure.

EPA is pleased to approve Maryland's 2004 Section 303(d) list and we commend you and your staff for the thorough work and exemplary effort in establishing the list and in responding to the comments received. Please feel free to contact Mr. Larry Merrill at 215-814-5452 or Merrill.Larry@epa.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision.

Sincerely,


Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosure



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